



16th IEA IEF OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks
4 February 2026
KAPSARC Premises, Riyadh

Draft Agenda	Megatrends, Resilience, and Change
Chair	HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy, Saudi Arabia
09:00 to 9:45	<p>Welcome and Scene setting by partner organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jassim Alshirawi, Secretary General, IEF – Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General, OPEC – Fatih Birol, Executive Director, IEA <p>With as invited guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy – Francesco La Camera, Director General, IRENA – Tristan Abbey, Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration EIA
9:45 to 10:15	<p>Session I: IEA and OPEC Energy Outlooks Comparison</p> <p>Key Findings of the IEF Comparative Outlook Report</p> <p>Differences among diverse scenarios, the emergence of new market realities, and rapidly evolving energy security and climate policies necessitate enhanced dialogue on energy market outlooks, and underlying data and assumptions. The objective of this session is to present and compare the outlooks prepared by the IEA and OPEC, and how they relate to other outlooks and actual energy market and policy dynamics. What are the implications of the assumptions underpinning these scenarios for investment and trade in energy security, market stability and the achievement of energy and climate policy goals?</p> <p>Session Moderator: Jassim Alshirawi, Secretary General, IEF</p> <p>Presentations by partner organizations (7 minutes per organization):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ayed Al-Qahtani, Director, Research Division, OPEC – Keisuke Sadamori, Director, Energy Markets and Security, IEA – Christof van Agt Ross, Director of Dialogue, IEF <p>Moderated Discussion/Q&A</p>
10:15 to 10:30	Group Photo with Coffee and Tea Break
10:30 to 11:30	<p>High-Level Government and Industry Global Perspectives Panel</p> <p>This panel gathers senior government and industry representatives to discuss energy policy priorities in relation to outlook projections and specific demand drivers.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do population growth, urbanization and mobility and economic trends and technology breakthroughs imply for energy demand? 2. How will energy security, transitions, and affordable energy access goals be secured? 3. Will sustainability, profitability, or security criteria shape the future of energy: How can dialogue and data collaboration ensure they work in concert? <p>Invited Speakers* (5-7 minutes speaking time):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bjørn Otto Sverdrup, Chair, Executive Committee Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, Head, Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter – Majid Jafar, CEO, Crescent Petroleum – Dick Richelle, CEO, Vopak – NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman, African Energy Chamber – Charif Souki, Chairman, Ajax Holdings – Andrew Drummond, Executive Vice President Strategy, Woodside Energy <p>Moderated Discussion/Q&A</p>

* Invited speaker subject to confirmation

11:30 to 13:00	<p>Session II: Medium-Term Outlooks: Navigating Headwinds with Resilience</p> <p>What does the new global risk environment imply for secure, sustainable, and affordable energy?</p> <p>Energy trade and investment must align with geoeconomic shifts and growing sustainability and compliance demands. Greater resilience and supply chain agility can allow global energy markets to respond to rising uncertainty and complexity in the medium term. Transitions need secure access to critical minerals, and rapidly growing data centers imply complementary roles for all energy technologies including renewables, nuclear and carbon abatement solutions. Meanwhile, declining reserves replacement rates and steeper decline curves raise the urgency of upstream investment, while capital costs, financing hurdles, and policy uncertainty weigh on project pipelines. This session will examine how medium-term scenarios frame these challenges and assess the balance between security, sustainability, and affordability in diverse regional contexts.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What strategies are needed to secure critical minerals and advance clean technologies while ensuring security of supply, diversity, and affordable access? 2. How will upstream oil and gas investment be scaled to offset decline rates and low replacement ratios? 3. How will data center and mobility energy demand reshape the medium-term energy mix; what roles will nuclear and carbon abatement technologies play, alongside renewables? <p>Session Moderator: Carole Nakhle, Founder & CEO, Crystol Energy</p> <p>Invited Speakers (5-7 minutes speaking time):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cosmin Ghita, CEO, Nuclearelectrica SA – Amrita Sen, Founder and Director of Market Intelligence, Energy Aspects – Helen Currie, Chief Economist, ConocoPhillips – Tom Smeenk, Executive Vice President Growth, VTTI – Tatiana Mitrova, Global Fellow, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University SIPA <p>Moderated Discussion/Q&A</p>
13:00 to 15:00 Networking Lunch & Bilateral Meetings	
15:00 to 16:30	<p>Session III: Long Term Perspectives on Aligning Energy Security with Transitions</p> <p>Energy Policy and Technology to Manage Megatrends and Disruptors</p> <p>This session will relate long-term scenarios to specific energy demand drivers and explore the interaction between global energy outlooks and the energy investment and technology advances required. Global energy systems are shaped by policy resolve, technology and innovation and drivers such as population growth, urbanization, and mobility, while disruptive forces such as breakthroughs, geoeconomic shifts, and geopolitical risk remain hard to foresee or model. Scenario narratives differ in how they capture these dynamics and projections diverge more to meet rising energy demand while accommodating energy, climate, sustainability and other goals.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent will hydrocarbons remain central in the long-term mix given transition constraints, and how should investment in carbon abatement evolve? 2. How will demographic, mobility, and AI reshape global energy demand by mid-century? 3. What new policies, financing tools, and partnerships are needed to align energy security with climate goals? <p>Session Moderator: Robert McNally, Founder and president of Rapidan Energy Group</p> <p>Invited Speakers (5-7 minutes speaking time):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Helima Croft, Global Head of Commodity Strategy, RBC Capital Markets – Peter Wood, Chief Energy Adviser, Shell – Joyce Chang, MD, Chair, Global Research Corporate Investment Banking, J.P. Morgan – Ken Koyama, Senior MD, Chief Economist, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) <p>Moderated Discussion/Q&A</p>
16:30 to 17:00	<p>Summary of Findings and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General, OPEC – Fatih Birol, Executive Director, IEA – Jassim Alshirawi, Secretary General, IEF
19:30 to 21:00 [Official Dinner at KAPSARC hosted by HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center]	